

STATINTL

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Language School Dependent Training Courses

1. When the DTR returned from his recent visit to Latin America, he commented that many wives had expressed the wish that they have more opportunity for language training before being sent overseas. Prior to that time dependents were accepted in language training on a space available basis and quite a few dependents had received training. DTR and C/IS agreed that a broader policy for dependent language training was in order and decided to run a couple of experimental dependents only courses. In January 1972 the Language School offered courses in French and Spanish three hours daily for 13 weeks for about 200 hours of instruction. This gives the average student a healthy courtesy or 1 level of proficiency. Eight students were enrolled in the French class and six in the Spanish. All of the six Spanish students remain -- three of the French students have withdrawn for various reasons but primarily because of home responsibilities. Two of our best teachers were used -- [redacted]

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2. C/IS interviewed both classes early the week of 22 February to assess the results after seven weeks of instruction. Both classes were highly enthusiastic about their training and particularly so because the instructors have slanted the instruction along lines which will be of use to the wives -- shopping, household activities, basic amenities, etc. The majority of the French class felt that they could come a longer day -- up to five hours -- but the Spanish class almost unanimously agreed that a three hour day was adequate. Some of the wives asked if we could give them additional instruction beyond the 13 weeks, and C/IS agreed to try to work out arrangements individually so long as their training did not conflict with the training of the officer personnel. The Language School will offer similar French and Spanish dependent courses in May and September if a minimum of three students apply. C/IS has also been meeting with various CS Divisions recently and has offered dependent training in other languages if the Divisions can get three students and if instructors are available.

3. At the present time the Language School also has dependents in Polish and Russian training and in the recent past has provided training to the wives of COS designees [redacted] as well as other wives.

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[redacted]
Acting Director of Training

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Distribution:

Orig & 1 - adse
2 - DTR
2 - LS/TR

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OTR/LS/[redacted] kJg (29 Feb. 1972)